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House Republicans Keep the Status Quo.

| <i>Medicare Improvement</i> | <i>Democrats?</i> | <i>Republicans?</i> |
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| Extends the life of the Medicare program by 5 years |  | NO – Republicans protect the insurance industry at the expense of beneficiaries and taxpayers |
| Decreases the rate of growth in Medicare spending by 3 percentage points during the next 20 years, from 7 percent average growth rate to 4 percent |  | NO – Republicans would continue Medicare on its currently unsustainable rate of growth |
| Provides incentives payments to physicians practicing in the most cost efficient areas of the country |  | NO |
| Eliminates government overpayments to private insurance companies in Medicare |  | NO – Republicans cater to the private insurance industry by continuing to pad their profits with massive overpayments that drain the Medicare trust fund and raise premiums for all beneficiaries |
| Limits cost sharing in Medicare Advantage to no more than cost sharing in traditional Medicare |  | NO – Republicans allow private MA plans to charge high cost sharing for certain services that sicker enrollees use, like cancer drugs |
| Allows Medicare Advantage enrollees to switch plans or enroll in traditional Medicare if their plan is violating program rules |  | NO – Republicans continue to give MA enrollees few options to leave their plan even if it violates Medicare rules |
| Requires disclosure of Medicare Advantage plan administrative costs |  | NO – Republicans continue to keep Medicare beneficiaries in the dark about how much their MA plan spends on medical care versus admin costs and profits |
| Extends Medicare Advantage special needs plans |  | NO – Republicans let this program expire at the end of 2010 |
| Eliminates the Part D “donut hole” |  | NO – Republicans do nothing to address this critical flaw resulting from their budget gimmick in 2003 |
| Gives Medicare beneficiaries a 50 percent discount on Part D drugs in the coverage gap until it is eliminated |  | NO – Republicans do nothing to address this critical flaw resulting from their budget gimmick in 2003 |
| Prohibits Part D plans from changing their formulary mid-year |  | NO – Republicans continue to allow Part D plans to increase cost sharing or drop drugs in the middle of a plan year |
| Eliminates wasted prescription drugs in long-term care facilities |  | NO – Republicans continue to pay for prescription drugs that are not used by patients and are just thrown away |

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| Clarifies that Part D plans can offer generic drugs for free to enrollees |  | NO – Republicans do not provide any incentives to use lower-cost generic drugs |
| Protects Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas |  | NO – Republicans let all of the provisions protecting rural Medicare beneficiaries' access to health expire |
| Improves and simplifies access to financial assistance for low-income Medicare beneficiaries |  | NO – Republicans continue to let seniors with nest eggs be ineligible for Part D low-income subsidies, and keep in place all other barriers that prevent seniors from accessing benefits that they are entitled to |
| Permanently covers immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients |  | NO – Republicans continue the penny-wise, pound-foolish policy of only paying for these needed drugs temporarily, but then paying for another transplant when the patient can't afford the drugs on their own |
| Provides reimbursement to physicians if patients seek and consent to talking about end-of-life care |  | NO – Republicans continue to short-change physicians for conversations that patients want to have with them |
| Makes available payment incentives for primary care services |  | NO – Republicans make no investments in encouraging primary care in Medicare |
| Eliminates cost sharing for all preventive services |  | NO – Republicans would continue to require cost sharing for preventive services in Medicare, like colonoscopies |
| Reimburses federally qualified health centers for preventive services |  | NO – Republicans continue to limit reimbursement for Medicare-covered preventive services provided in community health centers, like mammograms |
| Establishes nursing home transparency and protections for patients in nursing homes |  | NO – Republicans fail to address concerns about nursing home accountability |
| Requires sunshine on pharmaceutical and device manufacturer payments to doctors |  | NO – Republicans continue to prevent consumers from knowing the financial relationships between providers and pharmaceutical and device manufacturers |
| Requires reporting of healthcare-associated infections in hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers |  | NO – Republicans fail to address this important issue |
| Distributes unused medical residency slots to primary care positions to expand the primary care workforce |  | NO – Republicans continue to allow these unused slots to be wasted, rather than distribute them to where they are needed to help address the primary care physician shortage |

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| Encourages hospitals and post-acute providers to reduce preventable hospital readmissions |  | NO – Republicans continue to pay full price for poor quality care and unnecessary re-hospitalizations |
| Increases penalties for providers who submit false information on claims for payment |  | NO – Republicans fail to adequately crack down on waste, fraud and abuse |
| Imposes penalties for private Medicare plans that violate marketing requirements, submit false information on their bids or rebate reports |  | NO – Republicans continue to protect private plans that engage in abusive marketing practices or submit false information to the government for payment |
| Narrows the window of time for submission of provider claims for payment, and requires electronic payments to be made to FDIC institutions to eliminate “gaming” of payment policies |  | NO – Republicans do not attempt to crack down on false claims |
| Requires providers and suppliers to adopt compliance programs as a condition of participating in Medicare and Medicaid |  | NO – Republicans continue to make it optional for providers and suppliers to participate in compliance programs, letting bad actors slip through the cracks |